the Regional Electricity Boards in their present forms have been serving useful purpose and that they should be continued.

The draft submitted initially by the NCAER has undergone changes and refinement after taking into account the various comments and views received.

Rural Sanitation Programme in M.P.

†4090. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI ; Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have implemented the rural sanitation programme in the States of improving the status of the people of rural areas;

(b) if so, the total amount provided by the Central Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the form of Central assistance under this programme during 1999-2000; and

(c) ©whether the Central Government will provide additional Central assistance to Government of Madhya Pradesh for fulfilling the fixed targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For implementing the Central Rural Sanitation Programme, an amount of about Rs. 4.38 crores was provided to Madhya Pradesh as Central assistance under allocation based programme during 1999-2000.

(c) In addition to the funds released under the Allocation Based Programme, fiirther funds can also be released to the Govt, of Madhya Pradesh for the pilot districts under the Total Sanitation Campaign of Restructured Central Rural Sanitation Programme on receipt of the projects and approval of the National Scheme Sanctioning Committee.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

†4091. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK
: PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had initiated any programme for poverty alleviation in the villages;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.